

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for Meeting of Aug. 3, 2010
Municipal Office Bldg., Harpswell, ME

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Donald Jones, Anne Perry, T. Barrett, A. Nemrow, B. Taylor. Associate member S. Vachon (voting member for this meeting as directed by the chair.) Absent D. Strachan

Prior to the meeting being called to order there was a lengthy discussion on the history of ants and their wants and needs. Apparently, there has been an invasion of a small variety of pismires in the Town Hall. It was determined that a non-chemical approach would be best for the environment and the creatures. Mary Ann will let Linda in the town office know the best way to accomplish this. After the meeting an investigation by several members of the commission from outside seemed to indicate that the creatures were coming in through small cracks in the foundation and were probably being attracted by the secretions of aphids or other insects on the adjacent plants inside entryway

Meeting called to order by M. Nahf at 3:07PM

Minutes of July 20, 2010 approved. Moved by B. Taylor seconded by D. Jones. Unanimous

Member announcements: M. Nahf mentioned the Steve Walker walk in the Otter Brook corridor for Aug. or Sep. She will contact other HCC members via email to find a date that works best for as many members as possible. She will also contact abutters on the east side of the corridor for permission to cross their property. Access point will probably be the Town Hildreth Rd. property.

Old Business

- Adopt-a-Road program seems to be moving along as reported by A. Perry.
- Pest Registry Meeting in Portland on July 23rd. re: notification of residential spraying. No information regarding the outcome was available as yet.
- Harpswell Festival attendance at HCC booth was minimal with about 10 new SOB sign-ups. More visibility is needed via newspapers, TV, Garden Club and other groups for the future. M. Nahf brought up the issue of collecting pesticides at the Town recycling center. She will talk to Fred Cantu and B. Taylor will contact Fred Horsch re some type of incentives for homeowners to participate. HCC may have a table at the recycling center in Sep. for this purpose. Need to show what contamination does to shellfish beds, fish, and invertebrates. A. Nemrow will contact county extension service for add'l. consultation.

Town lands/Cliff Trail Project

Rob Bryan's report on the approximate cost of an ecological survey of the properties behind the Town office was discussed; in preparation for grant applications

Land Acquisition Fund

.Questions to be answered for future land acquisition. should be: what is the purpose, who will it benefit, how much to be bonded and criteria for acquisition. T. Barrett thought there should be a time limited if bonding was done without specific property in mind. Suggested \$500k with a 2-year limitation on use. How to describe values and criteria will be discussed at the Aug. 17 meeting. An annual appropriation for the conservation fund of \$50K was agreeable to the members as a starting point. M. Nahf will attend a Budget Advisory Committee on 8/4 to discuss an annual appropriation and renaming of the Land Acquisition Fund to a Conservation Fund

A brief discussion was held on the results for the walk on the Long Reach marsh property with Kristin Puryear on July 21st. It was a valuable learning experience for those HCC members that were able to join the walk.

Meeting schedule for September: 9/1 and 9/15.

Adjourned at 5:01pm
D. Jones, scribe